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Alexicon *insider*

INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY FOR THE
RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

Regulatory Headlines

Dems Want Pai Investigated

Top House Democrats are calling for the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to be investigated over whether he has been improperly clearing regulatory hurdles for the Sinclair Broadcast Group's pending acquisition of Tribune Media.

FCC Seeks Performance Measures Input

The FCC's Wireline Competition Bureau, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, and Office of Engineering and Technology (Bureaus) are requesting updates to the record on performance measures for certain Connect America Fund (CAF) high-cost universal service support recipients, including price cap carriers, rate-of-return carriers, rural broadband experiment (RBE) support recipients, and CAF Phase II auction winners.

Copper Retirement Rules to be Cut?

As the FCC moves to update the copper retirement process at its upcoming monthly meeting this Thursday, Chairman Ajit Pai has been making his case heard that a more streamlined method will drive service providers to ramp up broadband network investments.

AT&T Merger Fight Showdown

The U.S. Justice Department is encouraging AT&T Inc. to address antitrust officials' concerns about the \$85.4 billion acquisition of Time Warner Inc. before the Nov. 23 Thanksgiving holiday or face a lawsuit to block the deal, people familiar with the matter said.

Pai Pans ATSC 3.0 Critics

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai has staked out a "lead, follow, or get out of the way" position on new technology that is clearly driving his regulatory view...



Market Watch

- [USDA Announces Rural Broadband Funding](#)
- [BroadbandNow Report on Download Speeds](#)
- [Telcos May Get Revenge in Broadband Wars](#)
- [CenturyLink Sheds 101K Broadband Subs](#)



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Questions? Comments?
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Technology Trends

New and notable technology and services

Amazon Developing New Video Service

Amazon is developing a free, ad-supported complement to its Prime streaming video service, according to people familiar with its plans. The company is talking with TV networks, movie studios and other media companies about providing programming to the service, they say.

AI is Creating Jobs & Economic Gains

Early adopters of artificial intelligence (AI) and cognitive technologies are reporting strong opportunities for economic gains and job creation, according to a study released this week by consulting firm Deloitte. The overall sentiment of organizations queried by the firm is positive about the current and future role of cognitive technologies in their organizations.

Security Vulnerability in IoT Cameras

Newly uncovered vulnerabilities in a popular brand of indoor internet-connected cameras could be exploited by attackers in order to gain complete control of the device. Security issues with the Foscam C1 Indoor HD Camera could allow hackers to remotely access the device, according to researchers.

Solving the Managed Wi-Fi Puzzle

The number of connected devices in the home is growing at an astounding rate. Home networks have become more complex to support than ever before for service providers. Wi-Fi issues challenge your business metrics, complicate the customer experience, increase frequency and complexity of support calls and lead to more truck rolls.

Broadband and Career Success

According to new research from the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida (ICUF) presented to the Higher Education Coordinating Council (HECC), the lack of widely available broadband internet access in Florida is correlated to a smaller percentage of citizens with college degrees or certificates.



IN FOCUS: *Open Internet and The Internet of Things*

Open Internet Rules

The FCC, led by Chairman Pai, is reportedly readying an order that would officially roll back the Open Internet rules adopted during 2015. There continues to be, however, some question as to how the rules will be rolled back. In a draft order that could be released as soon as next week, there seems to be a couple of main ways this could go. First, Pai (and presumably O’Rielly and Carr) could eliminate all semblance of FCC regulation over Open Internet concerns, and in essence leave oversight to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). Second, the Commission could adopt a “light touch” policy under Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act. It is also possible that the whole thing could get relegated to another lengthy proceeding.

Whatever the outcome of the decision, there is sure to be substantial opposition, thus making it only the first step in a process likely to result in yet more litigation.

Rural Internet of Things

The Senate Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet (under the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee) recently held a hearing titled “Advancing the Internet of Things in Rural America.” According to the Chair, Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS), the hearing examined “the use and benefits of the Internet of Things (IoT) in rural communities, and the infrastructure needs necessary to advance the IoT market to ensure

rural America has access to products and devices that are driving the digital economy.”

Witnesses at the hearing included representatives from a Mississippi Telehealth Center, an Oil and Gas Technology firm, an Irrigation Systems provider, an enterprise IoT solutions provider, and a digital inclusion advocate.

The discussion often focused more on the need for reliable, affordable broadband in rural areas than on the specific benefits of IoT in rural areas. Some of the uses and benefits discussed included rural telehealth, in the form of remote patient monitoring and emergency services; predictive analytics and smart sensors in the oil and gas industry; monitoring and responding to changing weather conditions and obtaining real time soil data in the agriculture industry, and Enterprise Asset Intelligence that allows firms to track assets.

The hearing brought up some timely and interesting topics, but all witnesses eventually came back to the availability of reliable and affordable broadband in rural areas (or the lack thereof). As a result, at the very least we can count this as another piece of evidence that the FCC needs to move quickly to solve its rural USF support problems.



Alexicon at Work

Thanksgiving Holiday

Alexicon’s offices will be closed November 23 and 24 for the Thanksgiving Holiday.


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